



IDAHO CROP WEATHER



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Dry Conditions Allow Steady Harvest Progress

Extremely dry conditions have proven to be excellent for finishing small grain harvest. These same conditions, however, are beginning to concern farmers preparing to plant non-irrigated winter wheat. Very little measurable precipitation was recorded last week. Average weekly temperatures were well above normal. Winds and light showers were reported in Eastern Idaho over the weekend. Statewide, an average of 6.80 days suitable for fieldwork was reported for the week ending September 26. According to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service, major farm activities during the past week included preparing seedbeds and fertilizing for fall planted grains, harvesting potatoes, and digging early sugarbeets.

Crop Report

Farmers in North Idaho are preparing fields for winter wheat and fall barley, but many are worried about the dry conditions. In Southern Idaho, producers are killing potato vines, seeding alfalfa, and harvesting silage corn. Treasure Valley farmers are harvesting onions, mint, and many of their seed crops such as alfalfa seed, sweet corn seed, and clover seed. Sugarbeet harvest for Southwest Idaho is scheduled to start this week. Fruit producers are harvesting grapes, apples, and pears. Reports indicate that topsoil moisture declined to 12% very short, 43% short, 44% adequate, and 1% surplus.

Crop Progress Percentages

| | 1999 | 1998 | Avg. |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Potatoes with Vines Dead/Kill | 88 | 82 | 92 |
| Mint Harvested | 91 | 99 | 98 |
| Onions Harvested | 69 | 36 | 60 |
| Dry Beans Harvested | 84 | 69 | 72 |
| Corn Harvested for Silage | 51 | 40 | 48 |
| Sweet Corn Harvested | 88 | 86 | 91 |
| Corn Harvested for Grain | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Oats Harvested for Grain | 95 | 99 | 91 |
| Peaches Harvested | 96 | 87 | 95 |
| Prunes & Plums Harvested | 72 | 57 | 86 |
| Apples Harvested | 15 | 14 | 24 |
| Hops Harvested | 88 | 79 | 91 |

Livestock Report

As the grazing season winds down, range and pasture conditions continue to deteriorate due to dry weather. Livestock producers are sorting cattle and weaning calves as they are brought down from the high elevations.

Condition Information

| Percentages | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Irr. Water Supply | 0 | 0 | 5 | 42 | 53 |
| Pasture & Range | 2 | 9 | 45 | 42 | 2 |
| Potatoes | 0 | 1 | 12 | 79 | 8 |

Crop Progress Report Percentages for Week Ending September 26, 1999

| Crop | North | | | Southwest | | | Southcentral | | | East | | | State | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|-----|-----------|------|-----|--------------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|------|-----|
| | 1999 | 1998 | Avg | 1999 | 1998 | Avg | 1999 | 1998 | Avg | 1999 | 1998 | Avg | 1999 | 1998 | Avg |
| Winter Wheat | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planted | 13 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 27 | 32 | 43 | 38 | 40 | 54 | 24 | 25 | 33 |
| Emerged | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 17 | 23 | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| Spring Wheat | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harvested | 99 | 100 | 97 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 100 | 98 | 94 | 100 | 96 | 96 | 100 | 97 |
| Barley | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harvested | 99 | 100 | 98 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 89 | 98 | 95 | 93 | 99 | 96 |
| Alfalfa Hay | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harvested (3 rd Cutting) | NA | NA | NA | 100 | 94 | 91 | 98 | 99 | 91 | 75 | 72 | 58 | 88 | 85 | 75 |
| Potatoes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harvested | NA | NA | NA | 57 | 32 | 52 | 33 | 30 | 27 | 13 | 19 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harvested | NA | NA | NA | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 16 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 8 |

Avg (1994-1998).

Weather Data For The Week Ending Sunday, September 26, 1999 ^{1/}

| Station | Temperature ^{2/} | | | | Growing Degree Days ^{4/} | | | Precipitation (Inches) | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----|------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|--------|
| | High | Low | Ave. | Dept. ^{3/} | 40E Base | 50E Base | | Total | Dept ^{3/} | Month of September | March 1 | |
| | | | | | | To Date | Normal | | | | To Date | Normal |
| North | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lewiston | 90 | 48 | 65 | 4 | 4365 | 2589 | 2660 | 0.00 | -0.19 | 0.00 | 4.85 | 6.88 |
| Sand Point | 82 | 35 | 56 | 2 | 2975 | 1428 | 1445 | 0.11 | -0.36 | 0.26 | 12.35 | 14.13 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boise | 89 | 40 | 66 | 6 | 4484 | 2750 | 2513 | 0.00 | -0.19 | 0.00 | 3.25 | 5.87 |
| Caldwell 5/ | 88 | 43 | 65 | 5 | 4274 | 2496 | 2806 | 0.00 | -0.16 | 0.00 | 0.58 | 4.94 |
| Mountain Home 5/ | 88 | 39 | 64 | 5 | 4259 | 2615 | 2478 | 0.00 | -0.15 | 0.00 | 2.44 | 4.89 |
| Parma | 92 | 39 | 66 | 8 | 4338 | 2581 | 2363 | 0.00 | -0.19 | 0.00 | 3.36 | 5.47 |
| Weiser | 90 | 47 | 69 | 11 | 4522 | 2759 | 2403 | 0.00 | -0.13 | 0.00 | 4.01 | 4.86 |
| Southcentral | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buhl | 88 | 41 | 67 | 10 | 4101 | 2466 | 2051 | 0.00 | -0.11 | 0.07 | 3.75 | 4.98 |
| Burley | 88 | 40 | 63 | 7 | 4203 | 2521 | 1945 | 0.00 | -0.15 | 0.03 | 6.06 | 5.25 |
| Hill City | 82 | 28 | 57 | 5 | 2718 | 1326 | 1309 | 0.00 | -0.16 | 0.07 | 6.33 | 5.74 |
| Hagerman | 90 | 43 | 64 | 6 | 3990 | 2331 | 2596 | 0.00 | -0.09 | 0.00 | 2.90 | 4.51 |
| Malta 5/ | 84 | 37 | 61 | 6 | 3475 | 1871 | 1794 | 0.00 | -0.15 | 0.00 | 6.25 | 5.94 |
| Twin Falls | 85 | 39 | 61 | 6 | 3596 | 2006 | 1844 | 0.00 | -0.16 | 0.49 | 5.50 | 5.36 |
| East | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aberdeen 5/ | 82 | 34 | -- | -- | 3255 | 1694 | 1594 | 0.00 | -0.17 | 0.00 | 4.40 | 5.56 |
| Grace 5/ | 83 | 33 | 57 | 4 | 3156 | 1685 | 1401 | 0.09 | -0.24 | 0.45 | 10.62 | 9.54 |
| Idaho Falls | 81 | 33 | 55 | 2 | 3108 | 1569 | 1696 | 0.00 | -0.20 | 0.12 | 7.64 | 6.48 |
| Malad City 5/ | 83 | 37 | 61 | 6 | 3896 | 2331 | 1848 | 0.00 | -0.26 | 0.00 | 6.64 | 8.63 |
| Pocatello | 84 | 36 | 58 | 3 | 3461 | 1897 | 1942 | 0.00 | -0.21 | 0.02 | 6.90 | 6.89 |
| Rexburg | 79 | 29 | 55 | 2 | 3008 | 1525 | 1567 | 0.00 | -0.24 | 0.01 | 9.40 | 8.16 |
| Salmon 5/ | 81 | 34 | 58 | 3 | 3224 | 1662 | 1699 | 0.00 | -0.17 | 0.28 | 1.63 | 6.87 |

1/ Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data is quality controlled by the National Climate Center the accumulated growing degree days and precipitation values are updated. 2/ -- indicate missing or incomplete data 3/ Departure from normal. 4/ Totals from March 1. Growing degree days are estimated from neighboring sites for stations with missing or incomplete data.

5/ Precipitation totals are only for days reports were received, no estimates were made for missing data.

Daily High/Low Four Inch Soil Temperatures

| Station | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | | Sunday | | Average ^{2/} | |
|------------|--------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|--------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low |
| Buhl | -- | -- | 76 | 58 | 80 | 60 | 80 | 61 | 80 | 61 | 71 | 60 | 73 | 54 | 77 | 59 |
| Emmett | 82 | 70 | 83 | 70 | 84 | 70 | 83 | 71 | 83 | 71 | 82 | 72 | 80 | 66 | 82 | 70 |
| Parma | 67 | 58 | 66 | 59 | 67 | 59 | 66 | 59 | 67 | 59 | 66 | 59 | 64 | 56 | 66 | 58 |
| Sandpoint | 64 | 54 | -- | -- | 64 | 55 | 63 | 55 | 62 | 56 | 59 | 54 | 56 | 50 | 61 | 54 |
| Twin Falls | 70 | 57 | 70 | 56 | 71 | 60 | 74 | 59 | 76 | 57 | -- | -- | 65 | 53 | 71 | 57 |

1/ Eight Inch Reading. 2/ Averages are only for days reports were received. -- Missing or Incomplete Data.